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## Dear Kremena Dimitrova,

Many are asking the following questions: Are the Baltic States finally returning to positive growth rates and is the economic situation under control? Why did Poland show such economic resilience, avoiding the recession that hit all other countries in Europe? What is their secret?

Besides giving a general overview of the Region's competitiveness in a post-crisis perspective, the **2010 State of the Region Report** will provide answers to these questions which will help us better understand the economic prospects of the region. The report will have special country chapters on the four countries. **Christian Ketels** will present his analysis based on a great team of economists, and a **special workshop** will allow Summit participants to learn more. BDF's Strategic Partner and sponsor of the report Secretary General **Halldor Asgrimsson**, Nordic Council of Ministers and Vice-President **Eva Srejber**, European Investment Bank will take part in the workshop and give their views and assessments of the regional state of play.

The **2010 Baltic Development Forum Summit** is approaching. It will be a great event in terms of economic analysis, high level speakers, political level, business executives, entertainment and networking. I hope you have made your plans for joining us in Vilnius.

Hans Brask  
Director

[Remember to register ...](#)



## Programme

Here you can find the updated April version of the Summit Programme. New sessions, speakers and details about the Networking Village and Gala Dinner among many other things.

[Open the Programme ...](#)



## Media

Media representatives wishing to cover the BDF Summit should request accreditation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, see the link below. By doing so you will also be entitled to attend the Baltic Sea States Summit. Deadline is May 16th.

[Accreditation Form ...](#)

## State of the Region Report 2010

The 2010 edition of the annual BDF State of the Region Report will be released at the BDF Summit in Vilnius. This year it is sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Investment Bank.

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**BaltMet Promo – Promoting the**



**Investor's Cafe**

## Baltic Sea Region Globally

Based on cooperation between **Baltic Metropolises Network** and **Baltic Development Forum**, the BaltMet Promo project aims to join forces in **promoting the Baltic Sea Region** on a global scale. The project wants to attract tourists from other continents, talents from the creative sector and major international investment projects to the Baltic Sea Region. A series of events related to the project will take place in the Networking village.

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A big part of the Summit's Networking Village will be dedicated to this year's new concept: **Investors' cafe**. The idea is to connect people from business and investment sectors. There will be presentations from the **European Investment Bank, Nordic Investment Bank, Investor's Forum Lithuania, Nefco and private banking**. The atmosphere will be informal to let participants mingle and exchange their ideas and experience.



## New Speakers

**José Manuel Barosso**, President, European Commission  
**Audronius Ažubalis**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania  
**Lene Espersen**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Denmark  
**Peter Head**, Director, Chairman of Global planning, Arup  
**Hans Coenen**, CFO Gasunie Deutschland  
**Pirjo Kutinlahti**, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland  
**John G. Bernander**, Director General, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise

[Full list of Speakers ...](#)



## Summit Gala Dinner

The Summit Gala Dinner will be hosted by the **Design and Innovation Centre** of Vilnius Academy of Arts. Music by the most prominent Lithuanian jazz singer and master of flute **Neda Malunaviciute** will create a pleasant and cosy atmosphere during the dinner. As the host of the Gala Dinner, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania **Audronius Ažubalis** will give a welcoming address.

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## Baltic Sea Award 2010

In cooperation with **The Danish Industry Foundation**, the Baltic Sea Award 2010 is given to an individual or organization that has made an extraordinary contribution to the development of the Baltic Sea Region. The winner will be announced and receive the Award at a special ceremony before the BDF Summit gala dinner. Please nominate your candidate.

[Read more ...](#)



## New BDF Strategic Partner

Fortum is a leading energy company focusing on the Nordic countries, Russia and the Baltic Rim area. Activities cover generation, distribution and sale of electricity and heat, as well as operation and maintenance of power plants.



## New Summit Media Partner

**Business New Europe** is the only English-language publication that covers all 30 of the countries of "new Europe" – central, eastern, southeast Europe, the Caucasus, the Balkans and Central Asia.

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